



National Infrastructure Protection Center NIPC Daily Open Source Report for 05 February 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Seattle Post–Intelligencer reports a safety expert at Washington State Ferries has told Coast Guard brass that proposed maritime security regulations could make it more difficult for the struggling ferry system to stay financially afloat. (See item [16](#))
- The Associated Press reports shipping containers full of fireworks — falsely listed on shipping documents as children's toys — caught fire and exploded at a trucking depot near Sialko, Pakistan, killing at least 17 people, blowing in walls of a nearby school, and raining debris on surrounding buildings. (See item [19](#))
- The Associated Press reports the National Conference of State Legislatures notes in its report that the already grim financial health of state governments is worsening, with tax revenues falling and budget gaps widening during the first half of the current fiscal year. (See item [30](#))
- The General Accounting Office has published report GAO–03–144, entitled “Progress in Promoting Adoption of Smart Card Technology.” (See item [33](#))
- IDG News Service reports a just–completed study into the Slammer worm, which hit the Internet a week ago, has concluded that the Slammer was the fastest–spreading worm yet seen. (See item [38](#))
- Note from the Editor: As of 3 February, the NIPC Daily Open Source Report is being distributed through a new list service. While significant effort has been done to ensure smooth transition, problems are bound to occur. Please notify nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov with any comments, concerns, questions, or problems.
- Note from the Editor: Both the PDF and Word versions of the daily are posted to the NIPC Web Site at <http://www.nipc.gov/dailyreports/dailyindex.htm>

NIPC Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *February 04, Associated Press* — **Uranium plant workers strike. Hourly workers at the nation's only uranium enrichment plant, in Paducah, KY, went on strike Tuesday morning to protest the labor contract offer presented by United States Enrichment Corp. (USEC).** "I was ready to strike," said David B. Jones, a maintenance mechanic at the plant for 23 years. "We have a strong negotiating committee and a really strong union right now and we felt we were going to support them." The strike affects about 620 workers, about half the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant work force of roughly 1,250, leaving managers to run a network of systems and buildings. Union leaders say the company's salary increases will not offset increases in health care costs and say they are not satisfied with pension increases. **Elizabeth Stuckle, spokeswoman for USEC Inc., which operates the plant, said Tuesday the company has been willing to meet with a federal mediator and is willing to work with the union. Since July 1993 when USEC took over management of enrichment operations, there have been five successful contract negotiations at the Paducah plant, Stuckle said. USEC, a privatized federal corporation, ceased uranium-enrichment production at its southern Ohio plant in 2001 and consolidated operations at Paducah. USEC operates the Energy Department plant in Paducah and is the only U.S. company that enriches uranium for the commercial nuclear industry.**
Source: <http://www.wave3.com/Global/story.asp?S=1113456>
2. *February 04, Associated Press* — **Russian Nuclear Energy Minister Alexander Rumyantsev said Tuesday that Russia will participate in an international tender for construction of six reactors in Iran, Itar-Tass reported.** In an interview with the Vremya Novostei newspaper, Rumyantsev reminded that Russia is building a nuclear power plant in Bushehr in compliance with all international agreements. This nuclear power station is similar to the one being built by the United States in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) carried out 60 checks in Iran and registered no violations in 2002, he emphasized. **The Bushehr project has infuriated Washington, which brands Iran as part of an "axis of evil" and makes the issue a sore point in its relations with Moscow. Russia defends its cooperation with Iran by reiterating that its aid only serves civilian purpose and vows never to give it up.** At the IAEA Vienna session in September 2002, Iran made the announcement to build six more reactors. It has called on all countries possessing nuclear technology to take part in the project.
Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/newsroom/nr_article.cfm?id=3622226
3. *February 03, Reuters* — **Bush's budget calls for ANWR oil leasing in 2005. President George W. Bush's proposed budget, released on Monday, (February 3), calls for Congress to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil drilling and begin leasing tracts in the refuge to oil companies in 2005.** In his budget submitted to Congress, Bush said leasing ANWR land would raise \$2.4 billion in leasing fees in 2005, and half that amount would go toward increased funding for the Energy Department's renewable energy technology

research programs over a seven-year period. **The administration said it wants to lease between 400,000 acres (161,874 hectares) and 600,000 acres (242,811 hectares) in the refuge's coastal plain in 2005. The refuge sprawls across 19 million acres (7.7 million hectares), but only the area's 1.5 million acre (607,000 hectare) coastal plain would be accessible to energy firms. The White House had previously backed a plan to limit drilling activities to just 2,000 acres (809 hectares) at any one time in the 1.5 million acres that would be opened to exploration.** The administration's plan to open the refuge to drilling suffered a setback on Friday as six Republican senators said they opposed inserting language that would give oil companies access to ANWR into the must-pass 2004 budget bill. They argue drilling in the refuge should be fully debated on the Senate floor and not injected into the budget process. The Interior Department estimates the refuge could hold between 5.7 billion and 16 billion barrels of recoverable oil. If ANWR were opened, it would take about eight years before the area reached full oil production.

Source: http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news_article.cfm?id=3619065

4. *February 03, Octane Week/PBI Media* — **Energy bill likely for the spring.** Taking a cue from President George W. Bush's State of the Union address, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Pete Domenici (R-NM) said energy legislation would be a priority. Domenici announced plans to move a "robust" energy bill through committee this spring, reflecting the President's agenda. **President Bush stated that a reliable and affordable energy supply is critical to a robust national economy, Domenici noted. "As chairman of the Energy Committee, I am committed to move a substantive energy bill through committee early this year. America has become dangerously dependent on foreign oil. The President understands energy and, to his credit, has challenged us to harness our American ingenuity and scientific prowess to develop hydrogen-fueled vehicles as a means of decreasing our thirst for foreign oil."** Although Domenici did not specify contents of an energy bill, environmentalists expect the Republican Senate to push for opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). Green groups convened a press gathering Friday to discuss the threat to the Alaska refuge. The groups, including the Sierra Club and the National Wilderness, released new polling results that show public support for protecting the Alaska area.

Source: http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=3617681

5. *February 03, Reuters* — **Prices firm after Midwest U.S. pipeline blast. An explosion on a natural gas pipeline in Illinois operated by an El Paso Corp. unit was pushing up gas prices, traders said on Monday. Details of the mishap, including exactly where it occurred or how much transport volume was affected, were not known and El Paso officials were not immediately available to comment.** "We came in today and prices were pretty strong. And then we found out the ANR system owned by El Paso had ruptured late Sunday in Illinois," one Southwest gas trader said. The trader said he believed the rupture cut up to about 1 billion cubic feet a day. Other traders, however, said they did not know how much gas capacity was impacted, with one dealer saying he believed the transport volume impacted was "not that significant." **El Paso's ANR Pipeline Co. operates a 10,500-mile interstate natural gas pipeline providing transportation and storage services to customers in the United States and Canada.**

Source: http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news_article.cfm?id=3619072

6. *February 03, The Billings Gazette (Montana)* — **Most oil–gas lands have unrestricted leases . There are abundant and untapped reserves of oil and gas in the Rocky Mountains including the Powder River Basin and in Western Montana—and most aren't being locked out by restrictions on federal land, a new survey of energy resources shows. In looking at five Rocky Mountain basins, the federal study says about 57 percent of the oil and 63 percent of natural gas is available under standard leases. About 15 percent of oil and 12 percent of natural gas is off–limits because of land restrictions. The rest can be leased but under stricter rules.** The report, requested by Congress in 2000, is a first–of–its–kind study examining oil and gas potential in the five basins and what kinds of constraints there are in getting to those supplies. "This is where a majority of natural gas and oil is located in the interior West, including the second–largest reservoir of natural gas," Rebecca Watson, Interior's assistant secretary for land and minerals management, said Thursday. She said the report is not aimed at rolling back restrictions on oil and gas leases, but simply to provide information for future decisions on energy issues. The report, which Watson called "conservative," showed there is about 138 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the five basins, enough to heat the 55 million homes that use natural gas for the next 39 years, according to Watson. **"We have become increasingly dependent on natural gas," Watson said. "This administration feels a domestic supply of natural gas is very important for our nation's economy and national security issues."** **The Powder River Basin in Wyoming and Montana will be a significant player in providing that supply, she added.** "The basin has about 4.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas that's technically recoverable under current leasing rules, about 59 percent of what the government thinks is underground. An additional 32 percent of the total would be available under more stringent restrictions; 9 percent isn't available at all for leasing, the report says. When looking at a specific project, companies will be able to discern which developments are economically feasible and which aren't, said Gail Abercrombie, director of the Montana Petroleum Association.
- Source: http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news_article.cfm?id=3619232

7. *February 03, The State Journal (Colorado)* — **Greenbrier County lands \$215 million power plant. Newly formed public service company Western Greenbrier Co–generation (WGC) has plans to build a \$215 million power plant that will use coal waste from a 4 million–ton refuse site in Greenbrier County. The company plans to use the coal waste for fuel and convert the leftover waste into structural bricks for residential construction, said Bill Strabala, founder of Midway Environmental Associates in Arvada, CO.** In a proposal to the U.S. Department of Energy, officials from WGC said the refuse site in Greenbrier County is a significant source of water and soil pollution in the area, and the company has plans to eliminate much of the environmentally damaging material. In addition to removing the harmful wastes, the new plant will provide about 125 new jobs and about 300 temporary construction jobs for Greenbrier County, according to Bill Schiffer, acting CEO of Western Greenbrier Co–generation. **Company officials said they can convert 1,610 tons of coal a day into electricity, steam for industrial use and district heating, alkaline ash material for the remediation of acid mine drainage and Strabala's structural bricks. The Department of Energy approved WGC's proposal earlier this month as a public–private partnership, meaning the federal agency will provide \$107 million for the plant's creation.** The project was one of 36 being considered by the Department of Energy's Clean Coal Power Initiative. With the green light given by the Department of Energy for the new power plant, Strabala is preparing to bring his product to West Virginia. With the Department of Energy approving the

project proposed by Western Greenbrier Co-generation, the next step will be a formal negotiation of the cooperative agreement between the company and the federal agency that will be initiated shortly, according to department officials. The power plant is expected to be in full operation in five years. The WoodBrik plant will be in full operation within two years and will purchase fly ash from other plants until Western Greenbrier Co-generation begins producing its own.

Source: http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=3619187

8. *February 03, The Denver Post* — **Colorado homeowners, ranchers adopt use of small hydroelectric generators.** Melting crystals of western Colorado snow eventually flow down to the massive Glen Canyon and Hoover dams, providing hydroelectric power for 3.3 million households. But along the way, the same water powers Tom Golec's tiny home generator high above Basalt, and schoolteacher Dave Scott's home near Gypsum, and a handful of guest ranches and farms in the Colorado mountains. **In small but growing numbers, Coloradans are returning to a power source that once drove the state's early mining towns. "White coal," the miners called it, referring to rushing white water that provided both electrical and mechanical energy for ventilating mines and milling ore. "Micro hydro" is the modern term, describing small hydroelectric systems that require no dams — just the natural energy provided by fast-moving creeks and springs.** The water-powered generators provide electricity for as little as one household, or for as many as several homes or small businesses. **The power is clean and renewable. All the water used to spin turbines is returned to the same stream, making the systems, in water-law jargon, non-consumptive — an important attribute in parched Colorado. Energy experts acknowledge that micro hydro, despite its attributes, will never amount to a major power source in the United States.** Even large-scale hydroelectric projects, which generate as much as 2 million times the electricity of a tiny system, accounted for just 6 percent of the nation's power in 2001. Nevertheless, micro hydro is a vital piece of the power picture for homeowners and ranchers in remote locations where the cost of stringing power lines — \$10,000 a mile or more — is prohibitive.

Source: http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=3619143

9. *February 03, The Record – Bergen County (New Jersey)* — **Co-generation: a timeless concept whose time has come.** Wayne, NJ is poised to become the nation's first municipal government and school system to share a Space-Age heating and power system based on the timeless concept of cogeneration. **Co-generation – using an energy source to produce two or more forms of energy – is seen as the coming wave for institutions facing higher energy bills soon to come with deregulation of the electricity industry. Wayne officials expect to save millions of dollars over the years with an enclosed system that begins with natural gas and captured solar and ground heat and produces electricity, heat, hot water, air conditioning, and even a self-cooling system.** Efficiency was what Thomas Alva Edison had in mind when he built the world's first commercial power plant in 1882 using a large steam engine with a generator attached to it. That facility was also the first cogeneration plant, as it made and distributed both electricity and thermal energy. Once practical only for large factories, co-generation is now high-tech and a good fit for clustered facilities such as hospitals and colleges. Such systems require about 35-percent less fuel than conventional utilities because they capture and recycle the large amount of "waste heat" lost in standard electricity-generating processes. In Wayne, the municipal complex and several schools make

up one huge campus. If the township and school district team up and invest in a cogeneration facility, officials predict taxpayers could save more than \$20 million in energy costs over just two decades. An already enthusiastic Township Council expects to decide in February on allocating the estimated \$2.3 million to \$3.4 million needed for construction and engineering. "The ultimate goal is to try and save taxpayer dollars," said Mayor Scott Rumana. "It's not a new technology, but this concept of cogeneration is extremely innovative in terms of municipalities getting involved with the process." **A handful of cities – including two in New Jersey – –already operate on co-generation systems, but federal lists of utilities indicate Wayne and its school district would be the first in the nation to combine and build a cogeneration system relying in part on solar and geothermal energy – free, renewable energy from the Sun and Earth.**

Source: http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=3619176

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Chemical Sector

10. *February 04, BBC* — Russian deputy says country's chemical weapons will be destroyed.

Radio Russia's "Persona Grata" program, broadcast on February 4, featured State Duma deputy and member of the state commission for the disposal of chemical weapons Nikolay Bezborodov, being interviewed by Vitaliy Ushkanov on the problem of recycling warfare chemicals in Russia. **Bezborodov said about 40,000 tons of warfare chemicals were stored in Russia, and these are to be destroyed by the year 2012.** "We will build two full-scale facilities – one in Shchuchye and another one in Kambarka. And, of course, there is a facility in Gornyy, which was commissioned on 19 October. A total of 70 tons of yperite has already been destroyed there. And the task is to destroy 400 tons of warfare chemicals this year – the 1 per cent which we must destroy under the amended program," Bezborodov said. **As regards methods of recycling warfare chemicals, Bezborodov said that Russia now employed the so-called wet and cold method. "In other words, we destroy warfare chemicals not by means of evaporating them and not by subjecting them to high temperatures reaching 2000 degrees Celsius and to high pressure, as they do in the U.S., but, on the contrary, we deactivate them, induce the necessary reaction and obtain a substance which is then to be recycled".** Bezborodov continued by saying that the obtained substance is harmless and can be subsequently recycled either by evaporation or some other method. "It is clear now that nobody is going to bury it, and nobody is going to store it. It will definitely be recycled," he said. As regards such chemical agent as lewisite, it will be used to produce arsenic. "It turns out that it can replace some components in the electronic industry. In particular, in batteries," Bezborodov remarked. Bezborodov also said the state should pay more attention to the health and social problems of the people who live near the facilities where warfare chemicals are either stored or recycled. He said the methods of recycling warfare chemicals were completely safe for people, and all the necessary measures were being taken to prevent terrorists from getting access to chemical weapons. He said people should be well informed of what was being done towards that end.

Source: http://acs.yellowbrix.com/pages/acs/Story.nsp?story_id=36408_647=Chemicals

11. *February 04, Associated Press* — Investigators look at dust buildup, unknown spark in factory blast. A mix of dust and air fueled a fatal explosion at the North Carolina medical

fittings factory that killed four workers and sparked a fire that burned for days, federal investigators said. West Pharmaceutical Services Inc., which made synthetic rubber stoppers and other medical supplies, used a variety of chemicals to cure rubber. "In this facility, it would be dust from one of the products that come up in their process," said Peter J. O'Connor, who headed a probe of the blast for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The bureau determined that the explosion was an accident, not a criminal act, and left the scene Monday. Wednesday's explosion shot flames and debris high into the air and shook buildings miles away. Three people died outright and a fourth died later of burns; nine burn victims remained in critical condition early Tuesday. An accumulation of dust from the rubber-making process could have been sparked by static electricity, a small fire or some other cause, said Steve Selk, an investigator with the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, which continues to working to pinpoint the accident's cause. **The major explosion occurred near the end of the production line on the first floor of the plant's two-story, 40-tall "mixing tower," where rubber is made into sheets, O'Connor said. "Rubber is one possibility that, when ground into very fine powder, can explode when disbursed in air," Selk said. That explosion may have been triggered by a smaller blast of unknown origin, Selk and O'Connor said. He said part of the investigation could involve recommendations on whether industry standards and government regulations are adequate to prevent similar blasts in the future. The two said materials that could have created combustible dust included sulfur, polymer powders and other organic processing agents. O'Connor said the plant had few volatile chemicals on site.** It took several days for firefighters to extinguish flames so that investigators could enter the demolished factory, where synthetic rubber was produced in one area and shaped into syringe plungers and intravenous equipment parts in another.

Source: <http://www.charlotte.com/mld/observer/news/local/5099362.htm>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *February 03, Government Computer News* — **Air Force notebook PC thief gets six years in prison. A military judge has sentenced an Air Force staff sergeant to six years in a military prison for the theft of four notebook PCs and two Palm Pilots from U.S. Central Command last summer.** Staff Sgt. Sheridan Ferrell II in late January had pled guilty to the charges. The service has also demoted the 33-year-old man to airman basic and will dishonorably discharge him when he is released from prison. Ferrell told the judge that he stole the computers to get back at his superiors for overlooking his candidacy for promotion. **The theft set off an investigation that brought more than 50 agents from the Air Force Office of Special Investigations to MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, marking the largest investigation in the base's history, an Air Force release said. The joint Central Command, located at the Tampa base, is overseeing war efforts in Afghanistan. CENTCOM officials on August 2 noticed that the computers, which contained sensitive information, were missing.** One week later, clues led investigators Ferrell's home, where they found the computers. Defense officials said **no classified data leaked out as a result of the theft.**

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/21034-1.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *February 03, Banking Systems and Technology* — **International registry proposed for enhanced due diligence.** Banks would benefit from an "international registry" that would act as an actual repository for due diligence documents, said Martin Steinbach of financial services group UBS AG, Switzerland. **The envisioned system would allow financial institutions to add documents to the system in electronic form. Enhanced due diligence (EDD), has become a requirement in international banking under the USA Patriot Act and its counterparts in other nations.** For each account, **banks must delve into questions of ownership, involvement of politically-exposed persons and downstream correspondent clearing.** Furthermore, it's not just a one-time effort, but **an ongoing requirement to stay current about customer activity.** However, the information required to satisfy regulators resides at several banks. Therefore, an institution conducting EDD has to chase down numerous documents from numerous parties in different time zones. The result: higher costs. Steinbach spoke at the BAFT Midwinter Strategic Issues Conference in Washington D.C. on January 29th.

Source: <http://www.banktech.com/story/BSTeNews/BNK20030203S0003>

14. *January 31, Federal Computer Week* — **Online financial fraud alert system.** The North Carolina Bankers Association has signed up to launch an online financial fraud alert system called Fraud-Net.com in that state. It works by **posting details of suspected instances of fraud – including data and images – in an online system that validated members of the system can access online.** In addition, as any responses to those alerts are added to the database, e-mail alerts are sent to the system's members. Security for the password-protected site is provided through 128-bit Secure Sockets Layer technology.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2003/0127/web-fraud-01-31-03.asp>

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Transportation Sector

15. *February 04, U.S. Department of Transportation* — **Federal Transit Administration launches emergency preparedness forum in Los Angeles, CA.** Federal Transit Deputy Administrator Robert D. Jamison will open the **Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) "Connecting Communities: Emergency Preparedness and Security Forum" in Los Angeles on Feb. 5–6.** The forums were created to help communities become better prepared to respond to emergency situations. The goal of the forums is to demonstrate the important role that transit plays in crisis situations and the importance of delivering a coordinated regional response to any emergency. **Participating transit agencies will work with regional emergency responders to determine the effectiveness of interagency response plans for the Los Angeles region.** The forums, which will continue in other U.S. cities through early 2003, have been created in cooperation with FTA's partners, the American Public Transportation Association and the Federal Railroad Administration. The FTA has been working with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (LACMTA) to host the forum. **FTA's five-part Security Initiative includes evaluating threats and vulnerabilities through a security assessment; developing a plan to address vulnerabilities; testing the plan in**

realistic situations; training employees to understand and implement the plan; and undertaking research to enhance human capabilities. The remaining scheduled forum will be held in San Diego on Feb. 26–27.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fta0403.htm>

16. *February 04, Seattle Post–Intelligencer* — **Security rules could hurt ferry system.** A safety expert at Washington State Ferries told Coast Guard brass Monday that proposed maritime security regulations could make it more difficult for the struggling ferry system to stay financially afloat. The ferry system's Scott Davis joined a chorus of pleas from representatives of a cross section of maritime interests asking the Coast Guard to be flexible in implementing security regulations to comply with changes in international law and the newly passed Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002. The public meeting was the fourth in a series of seven being held at ports around the country. **The regulations could make boarding a ferry similar to boarding a passenger airliner, with both people and vehicles subject to identification and search.** "Let me state clearly that the financial and operational implications of these proposed regulations, depending on their application, are enormous," Davis said at the meeting. **"The forecast security–related costs to an already strapped ferry system and state government are significant and would have a long–lasting impact."**

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/transportation/107119_maritime_04.shtml

17. *February 04, Washington Post* — **Security's growing leftovers.** More than a year into strict air security rules, passengers still aren't leaving their guns, switchblades and rolling pins at home. At security checkpoints across the country, travelers continue to show up with weapon–like items deemed too threatening for a packed airliner at 30,000 feet. Airport screeners last year confiscated several million knives, bludgeons and firearms — along with the occasional sword and deer antlers. Most unsettling, guards grabbed 37,504 box cutters — the same weapons used by the hijackers in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Few of the confiscated items are returned to their owners. **So airport storerooms around the country are filling up with scissors, corkscrews, screwdrivers, razor blades and Swiss Army knives. Airport managers are unsure what to do with them.** Carter Morris, vice president for security policy at the American Association of Airport Executives, said the federal government has not issued any guidelines. He doesn't know, he said, what to tell the many airport chiefs who e–mail him seeking direction.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp–dyn/articles/A20958–2003Feb_3.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *February 04, Seattle Post–Intelligencer* — **High–tech cargo security system introduced.** With the snap of a bolt cutter, the lock pin on the door of the 40–foot cargo container fell loose. Within seconds, an alarm sounded in a nearby laptop computer. In real life, the computer would have called a dock attendant to check the container. But Monday, it was just a demonstration to show that the new, post–Sept. 11 world of cargo container security is in place at the ports of Seattle and Tacoma in Washington. The next step: to persuade more shippers to join in. **Officials introduced the new end–to–end cargo container security system at Seattle's Terminal 5 yesterday. The system includes the sealing of cargo container doors with electronic data boxes accessible only by authorized shippers' employees. The \$10 million**

system went into limited use on Seattle and Tacoma port docks two weeks ago. Port officials said it's the first system in the region to provide computer-tracked, tamper-resistant seals on containers coming across the Pacific to the West Coast. **The system will allow shippers and customs officials to know and track the contents of containers shipped to Seattle and Tacoma port docks. It includes global-positioning ability to show a container's location. It can also show whether the container has been opened along the way and who authorized opening it.**

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/107118_portsecurity04.sh tml

19. *February 04, Associated Press* — **Fireworks blast kills 17 in Pakistan. Shipping containers full of fireworks caught fire and exploded Tuesday, blowing in walls of a nearby school and raining debris on surrounding buildings. At least 17 people were killed, including two children.** Dozens of others were injured in the blasts at a trucking depot near the town of Sialkot as the fireworks were being placed in two containers for shipment to Lahore, 60 miles to the southwest. **Officials said the fireworks had been falsely listed on shipping documents as children's toys, but said they didn't yet know what sparked the explosions. Customs officials had opened the container and were checking its contents when the explosions began, said the depot's general manager, Salim Sheikh.** A customs inspector was among those killed, he said. Sheikh ruled out terrorism as a cause of the blast. **A spokesman for Pakistan's Interior Ministry, Iftikhar Ahmad, said police were attempting to trace those who shipped the fireworks, listed on the manifest as plastic bullets for toy guns imported from the United Arab Emirates.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A24151-2003Feb 4.html>

20. *February 03, Associated Press* — **U.S. officers help at German port checks. U.S. customs officers began working at one of Germany's biggest ports Monday as part of an international drive to stop the smuggling of terrorists and their weapons. Five U.S. officials at the North Sea port of Bremerhaven are to support checks carried out by their German customs agents on containers heading across the Atlantic.** Others are to start work in Hamburg next week. Under an international initiative that Germany signed last year, the U.S. officials are to supply information on risky shipments and inspect documents before containers are allowed to leave port, the German customs service said. German officials will carry out any searches. **The United States says the initiative is vital to keep terrorists from using sea containers to smuggle nuclear, chemical, biological or other deadly weapons.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A18970-2003Feb 3.html>

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Agriculture Sector

21. *February 04, Casper Star Tribune* — **Brucellosis test ordered for Wyoming cattle. A handful of stray cattle will be tested for brucellosis after sharing feed with elk in the Gros Ventre mountains.** While it is unlikely elk would transmit the disease to cattle at this time of year, "we don't want to take a chance," state veterinarian Jim Logan said. "We'll definitely have a test when the timing is appropriate." Brucellosis is a contagious disease that can affect cattle, elk, and humans. It typically causes cattle to abort and can result in fever in humans. **The disease is most often spread through aborted tissue, and since elk are not aborting this**

time of year, disease transmission is unlikely, Logan said. But the cattle should be moved quickly because elk may begin aborting this month.

Source: <http://www.casperstartribune.net/articles/2003/02/04/news/wyoming/08e43c7cb3df4640d6c08066f829fb9e.txt>

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Food Sector

22. *February 04, Reuters* — **USDA: most meat plants violate food safety rules. About 60 percent of the largest U.S. meat plants failed to meet federal food safety regulations for preventing the E. coli bacteria in their products, the U.S. Agriculture Department said on Tuesday.** With proposed record level funding for its food safety programs in fiscal 2004, USDA said it would begin imposing the "next generation of enforcement" on the U.S. meat industry as part of its "war against E. coli." "We are doing everything possible to prevent outbreaks of E. coli in the summer, certainly to prevent these large recalls that we've had," USDA Undersecretary Elsa Murano told reporters. **In September, the department ordered all U.S. beef slaughter and grinding plants to reexamine their food safety systems after inspectors discovered E. coli was more prevalent in meat than previously thought. A preliminary review of these reassessments found 60 percent of 35 large meat plants not meeting federal food safety regulations. "They were scientific and design issues and not direct food safety issues," said Garry McKee, administrator for USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service.** USDA said many plants could not verify that their food safety systems were adequate.

Source: <http://reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=GKFBKHBHNEYO SCRBAEZSFEY?type=topNews/a>>

23. *February 03, Associated Press* — **New Jersey issues new warning on seafood. For the third time in the past year, New Jersey has warned that some of the seafood from its waters is contaminated by dangerous chemicals. A recent government advisory to consumers said elevated levels of PCBs in bluefish and striped bass mean they should be eaten only once a year, and not at all by pregnant women and small children.** PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, once widely used as insulating material, are believed to cause cancer. "We hope this information will allow families to make informed choices about the levels of fish consumption in their diet," Bradley Campbell, commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, said last week. **In July, the state issued an advisory about unsafe levels of mercury in fresh water bass, walleye, and lake trout. Earlier last year, a warning was issued about dioxin contamination in the blue claw crab.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A19400-2003Feb 3.html>

24. *February 03, Associated Press* — **Puerto Rico chicken processor stops work. Puerto Rico's largest chicken processing company said Monday it has suspended operations indefinitely, leaving 500 employees without jobs as the company tries to restructure.** Picu Cos. filed for Chapter 11 protection on Monday, said Samuel Reyes, chairman of the board of directors. "Picu has not closed, it has stopped processing chickens until we can resolve a cash flow problem," Reyes told a news conference. The U.S. Agriculture Department halted operations at the company twice in 2002 after inspectors found a rat in a chicken breeding farm and bacteria

harmful to chickens, but not to humans. The Caribbean territory's government is offering \$300,000 in immediate aid to farmers affected by the closure, said Luis Rivero Cubano, Puerto Rico's agriculture secretary. **Without a market to sell the chickens, farmers may have to destroy 100,000 birds, company officials said.**

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/business/apbiz_story.asp?category=1310co%20Chickens

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

25. *February 04, New York Times* — **Mysterious infection attacks Los Angeles inmates. More than 1,000 jail inmates in Los Angeles, California have suffered painful and aggressive skin infections caused by a bacterium resistant to many antibiotics, medical authorities say.** The unusual outbreak during the past year is still not contained. **The same pathogen, which causes fast-growing boils and unsightly abscesses, also appears to have infected dozens of gay men, many of them HIV patients, in Los Angeles and San Francisco, health officials say.** Epidemiologists say the outbreaks stem from *Staphylococcus aureus*, a bacterium that causes many infections in hospitals and nursing homes. But the experts are worried because this strain, which is resistant to methicillin, penicillin, and other antibiotics, is spreading outside its traditional setting. **The ability of this bacterium to cause sudden and dangerous lesions on apparently healthy skin concerns health officials because it differs from other strains of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) which generally attack the skin only at weak points, like surgical incisions or open wounds.** They are also worried that it may be spreading to other groups. Dr. Elizabeth Bancroft, an epidemiologist with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, said she had received a growing number of reports of comparable ailments from people who were neither gay nor in prison. Through a technology known as molecular fingerprinting, health officials have already determined that the staph strain found in the jails and among gay men was virtually identical with one implicated in two much smaller outbreaks last year in Los Angeles, one among newborns and the other in young adult athletes.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/04/health/04INFE.html>

26. *February 04, New York Times* — **With substance unexplained, Red Cross shelves a blood bag.** The Red Cross shelved a once widely used type of blood collection bag yesterday as the investigation continued into a mysterious white substance discovered in its supply of donated blood in Georgia and Tennessee. The Red Cross, which supplies about half the donated blood in the country, had already been phasing out the bag, commonly used in blood drives, and replacing it with a diversion pouch designed to screen more aggressively for bacteria. Last week, officials discovered the white substance, described as fatty, oily, and nonhuman in origin by doctors who have seen it floating in blood, at times in BB-size globs.

The Red Cross said the bag was probably the source, but it was still unclear what the material might be. No patient is known to have come in contact with the particles, and doctors have noted that extra filters at the time of transfusion would most likely block the matter from entering the body. **The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the blood has tested negative for infectious or bioterrorism agents.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/04/national/04BLOO.html>

27. *February 04, New York Times* — **New Jersey doctors hold back services in protest.** The doctor was out for patients all across New Jersey today as thousands of physicians stayed away from their offices and hospitals to protest what they consider to be ruinous increases in malpractice insurance rates. **What had been planned as a one or two day protest threatened to stretch on, as organizers of the effort, the largest of several job actions undertaken by doctors around the country in the past year, urged physicians to keep refusing to provide most nonemergency care until state officials met their demands for limits on jury awards.** "We will continue to see emergency cases, we will continue to do deliveries of pregnant women," said Dr. Robert Rigolosi, president of the Medical Society of New Jersey, "but elective cases will not be seen, routine office visits will not be done, routine mammographies will not be done. They will not be done until we can get some meaningful tort reforms." **Dr. Rigolosi estimated that 70 percent of the state's 22,000 physicians took part. Doctors managed to respond to emergencies and see seriously ill patients as well as attend rallies at hospitals around the state, where they heard sympathetic legislators promise action on their demand for a limit of \$250,000 on pain and suffering awards in malpractice cases.** The doctors say that sharp increases in malpractice insurance premiums result from excessive jury awards for the pain and suffering claims of patients. There have been similar, limited walkouts in a number of states, including West Virginia, Florida and Nevada.
- Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/04/nyregion/04DOCS.html>

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Government Sector

28. *February 04, Washington Post* — **Cost of tighter DMV rules criticized.** Bills in the Virginia General Assembly that would tighten the rules for licenses as an anti-terrorism measure have encountered resistance not only from those who say the legislation would create a hardship for many immigrants, but also from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and some legislators concerned about the cost. **Proposals under consideration in the assembly would direct the DMV to deny licenses to people who cannot prove they are legal residents of the United States.** "We shouldn't be giving licenses to people who don't belong here legally," said Del. David B. Albo (R-Fairfax), a sponsor of a driver's license bill. Sen. James K. "Jay" O'Brien Jr. (R-Fairfax), who is backing a similar bill in the Senate, said **"almost every threat to homeland security since 9/11 has also involved fraudulent documents."** Virginia tightened its rules last year after investigators learned that several of the Sept. 11 hijackers had obtained Virginia licenses for use as identification, but O'Brien and other legislators said they think the state needs to do more to secure the system. Immigrant groups who have challenged the proposed restrictions are now also wondering how the DMV would fund the program, which the department said **could cost up to \$5 million a year.** DMV said in a report issued last month that adding new technology and training its agents to

recognize and process federal immigration documents would be a complex task. That would be a heavy burden for a department undergoing a cut of about \$23 million in its budget this year, officials at the agency said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A21347-2003Feb 3.html>

29. *February 04, United Press International* — **Registration plan nets six terror suspects.** The requirement for male visitors from several Muslim countries to register with the Immigration and Naturalization Service while in the United States has resulted in the arrest of at least six terror suspects, a U.S. official who asked not to be named told United Press International. "Yes, there are some terror suspects among the 400-plus ... we have detained during this process," Justice Department spokesman Jorge Martinez confirmed. "But we cannot disclose how many and who they are." **Diplomatic sources, however, said that there were six terror suspects detained — all of them from Middle Eastern or Muslim countries. The National Security Entry–Exit Registration System was launched Sept. 11, 2002, to register selected adult male visitors with U.S. immigration authorities. At U.S. ports of entry, the INS has questioned and fingerprinted thousands of visitors before allowing them into the country, said Martinez. Kris Kobach, counsel to Attorney General John Ashcroft told a recent briefing in Washington that "convicted drug offenders, traffickers and burglars are among hundreds of aliens who have been stopped as they attempted to enter the United States."**

Source: <http://www.upi.com/view.cfm?StoryID=20030203-065528-6128r>

30. *February 04, Associated Press* — **States' finances worsening, report says.** The already grim financial health of state governments is worsening, with tax revenues falling and budget gaps widening during the first half of the current fiscal year. Most states are considering tax increases, as well as more cuts to bridge the difference between weak tax revenues and the money needed to run government. **But a report by the National Conference of State Legislatures being released Tuesday concludes there is "no immediate end in sight" to severe budget troubles. States already have taken sweeping actions to deal with their plight, from massive layoffs of state workers in Connecticut to early prison releases in Kentucky. To bridge budget gaps, many states used their rainy-day funds, others money from the nationwide settlement with the tobacco industry. For all but four states, the 2003 fiscal year began in July. Twenty-nine states so far imposed across-the-board budget cuts, with eight states laying off workers. Others cut programs in elementary and higher education, Medicaid and corrections. Projections for tax revenues, the fuel that runs state programs and services, were too high in at least 30 states, even though all scaled them back as the economy worsened. Next year promises to be worse, the report found. Again, 36 states reported they expect a shortfall next year, and half of them said it would equal at least 10 percent of their budget. The problems stretched nationwide. In California, a conservative estimate of next year's gap equaled 30 percent of the budget; in New Jersey, the budget shortfall equaled 18.5 percent. Minnesota's is 15 percent. The question now is what can states do to get through the tough times. The report found that tax increase proposals are being considered in 24 states; at least 14 will consider higher cigarette taxes, while six are weighing higher taxes on alcohol. Six states are looking at sales taxes, four at income taxes.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A22808-2003Feb 4.html>

31. *February 04, The Washington Times* — **Bush asks for more to secure homeland.** President Bush has recommended a significant increase in homeland–security spending to prevent terrorist attacks in the United States. **Bush's fiscal 2004 budget for the new Homeland Security Department is \$36.2 billion, but the administration is asking Congress for an additional \$5.1 billion for domestic security still handled by other departments, including the Defense Department.** The cost for combining agencies to form the Homeland Security Department will rise 60 percent from its first funding of \$14.1 billion following the September 11 terrorist attacks. "Securing the American homeland presents hurdles of monumental scale and complexity, but the federal government has no more important mission," the administration said in its budget request. **The new department is combining 22 agencies and nearly 180,000 employees into four organizations: Border and Transportation Security; Emergency Preparedness and Response; Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection; and Science and Technology.** "The president has requested a budget which reflects his continuing and his very clear commitment to standing behind the priorities and the mission of the new Department of Homeland Security ... and to protecting our citizens and our way of life," said Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge.
Source: <http://www.washtimes.com/national/20030204-15016132.htm>

32. *February 04, Government Computer News* — **NIMA seeks name change that fits its expanded role. The National Imagery and Mapping Agency has submitted a proposal to President Bush recommending that the administration change the agency's name to the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency.** The proposed new name "more accurately captures our mission and what we do, rather than the perpetuation of the legacies of imagery intelligence and geospatial information," said retired Air Force Lt. Gen. James Clapper, the agency's director. The NIMA moniker has become somewhat outdated and fails to describe the work of the intelligence agency, which is changing, Clapper said. **National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, or NGA, would better reflect the current effort at the agency to link imagery and maps from multiple databases into a "ubiquitous knowledge map," he said. This map will feature "as much geospatial intelligence data as we can populate, with the users drawing from the sum of these databases."** NIMA was created in 1996 by merging the former Defense Mapping Agency and several other Defense Department image– and intelligence–gathering arms. Its chief work turns on acquiring and providing the government's intelligence community with imagery and maps. But as carryover from its disparate parts, NIMA has handled the collection of imagery and maps as separate functions, agency officials said. As NGA, the agency would unify those programs, Clapper said.
Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/21042-1.html

33. *January 03, The General Accounting Office* — **Electronic Government: Progress in Promoting Adoption of Smart Card Technology.** The General Accounting Office (GAO) published on January 3, report GAO–03–144, entitled "Progress in Promoting Adoption of Smart Card Technology." Smart cards are credit–card–like devices that use integrated circuit chips to store and process data and offer a range of potential uses for the federal government, especially in increasing security for physical and information assets. **Among other things, the GAO recommends the General Services Administration establish guidelines for federal building security that address smart card technology and that the Office of Management and Budget establish policy on adoption of smart cards for physical and logical security, and that the National Institute of Standards and Technology continue to**

improve and update the government smart card interoperability specification. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d03144high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-144>

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Emergency Services Sector

34. *February 04, Dallas Morning News* — **Anti-terror plans may have to wait.** With federal aid stalled in Congress and the state struggling with a \$10 billion budget deficit, some key recommendations for protecting Texans against terrorist attacks appear to be in jeopardy. **Several high-dollar safeguards proposed by Gov. Rick Perry's Task Force on Homeland Security – new emergency equipment, special teams to deal with chemical and biological attacks, increased Capitol security and monitoring of drinking water supplies – may not get off the drawing board this year.** Perry and other state leaders acknowledge the money troubles but say Texas still is better prepared than most states, partly because of its experience in dealing with natural disasters. Yet, local officials increasingly are worried about the lack of resources for anti-terrorism plans. "It's like sending soldiers into battle without weapons or training," said Dallas County Commissioner Ken Mayfield, president of the National Association of Counties. He said **Texas counties and cities, designated in the state's emergency management plan as front-line responders in a terrorist attack, are especially hard pressed for money to train and equip emergency teams.** On Monday, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, the Republican who led the task force, told the Senate committee he has assigned to handle homeland security legislation that the state has made sufficient progress in protecting against terrorism. But, he said, there is still much to be done. Dewhurst has said that two-thirds of the advisory group's 44 security recommendations have been or are being adopted – and that the rest will require state or federal legislation or local ordinances. **But many of the more costly proposals are in limbo because of an estimated \$112 million price tag for them and other state security needs. The Texas Department of Public Safety and the Office of Emergency Management Services – which have key roles in the state's war on terrorism – are among those saying they need more money to carry out assignments.**
Source: <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dallas/tsw/stories/020403dntextxsecure.2244e.html>

35. *February 03, Associated Press* — **Bush budget questions COPS program. A Clinton-era program to put 100,000 police officers on the streets did not conclusively reduce crime,** says the Bush administration's budget plan for 2004, which includes no additional money for the initiative. The budget proposal released Monday said the Community Oriented Policing Services program had exceeded President Clinton's original goal of putting 100,000 cops on the street, providing \$7 billion in grants since 1994 for 117,000 positions. **But the White House budget office found that its "impact on crime is inconclusive" and the agencies receiving grants have been unable to account for 18,000 of the positions approved through 2000.** Fewer than 90,000 officers have been hired or reassigned to street duty, a budget office analysis said. **The budget proposal for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 would provide \$164 million for COPS, about the same as this year. Most of the money would go for ongoing training programs and technology grants.** Last year's total of \$737 million includes money that was transferred to other programs.

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

36. *February 04, Washington Post* — **Investigation to include onboard computers.** The machines aboard the space shuttle Columbia were supposed to analyze information from the orbiter's sensors and satellite systems and make the hundreds of decisions each millisecond needed to keep the shuttle safe and on course during reentry. While early attention in the investigation into the loss of the shuttle has focused on possible problems with the heat-resistant tiles, **NASA investigators say a major part of their inquiry is determining whether something might have gone wrong with the shuttle's computerized flight controls. The onboard computers recorded a surge in temperature on the left side of the shuttle and detected increased drag on the left wing. They directed the craft to compensate for the changes by firing two of four right-side jets designed to keep the shuttle on a straight course — the biggest shift of direction ever ordered on reentry.** Four of the five computers on the Columbia ran identical software and compared results with each other before giving the go-ahead to take a specific action. The fifth computer ran a different version of the software and was used only if the others failed. **Investigators are running simulations on the software that attempt to replicate the situation in the shuttle at the time of its crash, to determine whether the computers might have under- or overcompensated.** Much of what is known about what happened aboard the Columbia came from a continuous stream of data that include such things as cabin temperature, altitude and the astronauts' heartbeats. **Investigators will try to extract from the agency's computers an additional 32 seconds of data that arrived incomplete or corrupted at mission control. They will try to piece together the bits of data to guess what those messages were.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A21041-2003Feb 3.html>

37. *February 03, Government Computer News* — **President Bush gives special focus to IT investments.** President Bush made it clear Monday with the release of his fiscal 2004 budget proposal that **his administration will continue to push agencies hard to justify their IT investments.** Agencies should expect the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to tighten oversight during the next twelve months with **a continued emphasis on improving cybersecurity, seeking business cases that are more closely aligned with federal enterprise architecture plans and, most importantly, specifying metrics to gauge performance.** The Bush administration requested **\$59.1 billion for IT projects next year, including \$37 billion for agencies' mission projects and \$21 billion for office automation and infrastructure initiatives.** The overall request represents more than a 14 percent increase over the request for this year. "Much of the \$60 billion is misspent, and much of it is spent in an uncoordinated way," OMB director Mitchell E. Daniels said. "We have used the authority Congress gave us to stop a variety of programs until they prove they, first of all, have a sound business case and will return greater productivity in their investments, and secondly, they will enhance integration and coordinate inside the federal government and not make bad problems worse." **Agencies have until September 30 to begin using an earned-value management system, a standard method that industry uses to track cost and schedule components.** Departments also will have to file reports comparing their 2004 business cases with those they will submit for 2005,

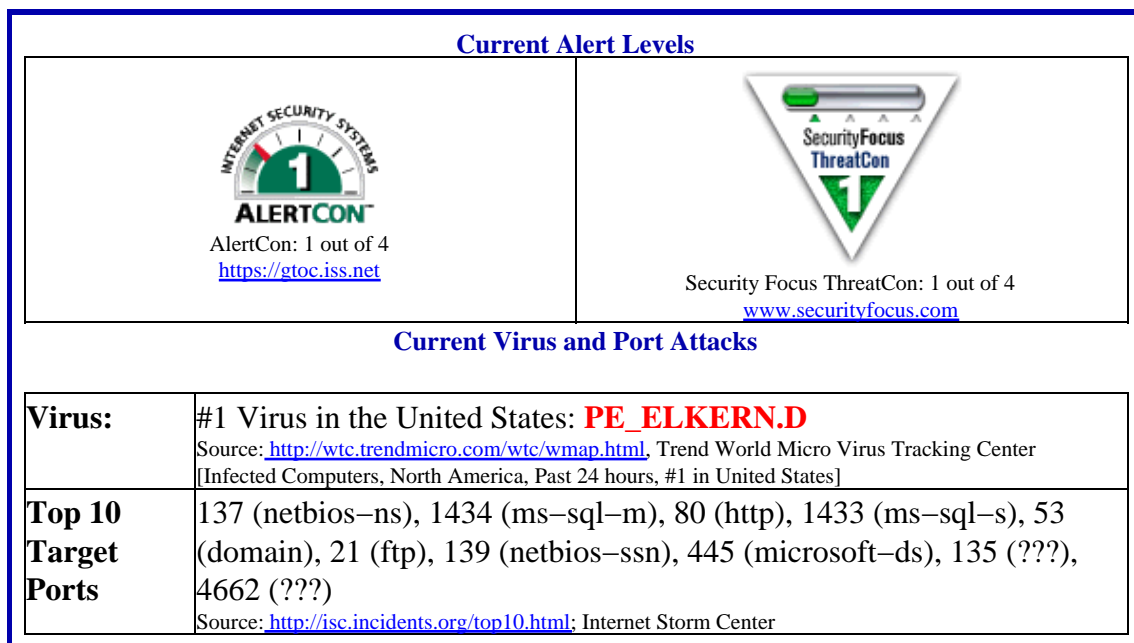
OMB noted in the budget proposal that Bush sent to Capitol Hill.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/21039-1.html

38. *February 03, IDG News Service* — **Study: Slammer was fastest-spreading worm yet.** A just-completed study into the Slammer worm, which hit the Internet a week ago, has concluded that **Slammer was the fastest-spreading worm yet seen.** The study was conducted by a group of experts representing the Cooperative Association for Internet Data Analysis (CAIDA); the International Computer Science Institute; security company Silicon Defense; the University of California, Berkeley's electrical engineering and computer sciences department; and the University of California, San Diego's computer science and engineering department. Slammer's spread was fast for several reasons. **At just 376 bytes in size, the worm and required headers fit inside a 404-byte Universal Datagram Protocol packet. Code Red, which hit in mid-2001, was 4KB in size.** The worm also worked differently from Code Red. Slammer generated random IP addresses and dispatched itself to those addresses without scanning to find out whether the target machine was running either of the two pieces of software that were vulnerable to attack: Microsoft Corp.'s SQL Server 2000 database and MSDE 2000 (Microsoft SQL Server 2000 Data Engine). **Because of its random nature, given enough time, the worm would hit all vulnerable machines.** Spread of the worm eventually began to slow because **bandwidth from infected machines to the Internet couldn't support the exponential growth in IP packets being generated. Its signature, attacking a specific port on vulnerable systems, was also easy to detect, and network-level blocking of the ports in question was effective in slowing the worm.** In the past, worms often targeted only software for which there was a large installed base of users. But **given the speed with which Slammer-like worms can spread, less popular software now also presents a viable breeding ground for worms, the report said.**

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/story/0,10801,78120,00.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard



General Sector

39. *February 04, Washington Times* — Arrests of al Qaeda terrorists disrupt plans for attack.

Al Qaeda is planning a mass-casualty attack to rival September 11, but preparations have been disrupted by arrests of terrorists during the past several months, according to U.S. intelligence officials. Recent intelligence reports indicate that communications among clandestine cells of al Qaeda members are being restored gradually, the intelligence officials said. Additionally, the **intelligence reports stated that any major attack is likely to be preceded by smaller-scale strikes, including assassinations of prominent people in the United States,** the official said. Officials did not provide details on the latest threat, which was contained in intelligence reports sent to senior Bush administration officials last week. The warning did not say whether the attacks would be in the United States or abroad.

Source: <http://www.washtimes.com/national/20030204-79888.htm>

40. *February 04, Washington Post* — CIA and allies tracking Iraqi agents. The Central

Intelligence Agency and security services from several U.S. allies around the world are prepared to arrest Iraqi agents, their associates and known anti-American terrorists to prevent possible attacks against U.S. citizens, embassies or other facilities if the United States launches a war against Iraq, according to senior Bush administration officials. "We and our allies are bracing for a terrorist offensive, and we are keeping track of Iraqi intelligence officers around the world," one senior U.S. intelligence official said. **Foreign intelligence services already are tracking individuals known to be in touch with Iraqi agents, and they have interrogated some of these individuals as well as some Iraqi expatriates,** the official said. U.S. allies also are on alert for signs that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has sent agents abroad to arm Iraqis or terrorist groups with conventional, chemical or biological weapons, officials said. **They said some of the weapons may already be in place outside Iraq's borders.** Administration officials said **the campaign is underway in countries across the Middle East and Europe as well as in parts of Asia and Africa** where Iraqis or anti-Western terrorist groups are believed to be active. They said **the operation is not in response to any specific threats** but is based on U.S. intelligence estimates that Hussein might respond to a U.S. invasion by ordering attacks against American targets in either the United States or in foreign countries.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A20713-2003Feb 3.html>

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[NIPC Alerts](#) – Alerts address major threat or incident information addressing imminent or in-progress attacks targeting specific national networks or critical infrastructures.

[NIPC Information Bulletins](#) – Information Bulletins communicate issues that pertain to the critical national infrastructure and are for informational purposes only.

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